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**CUPE Local 997 Regular General Meeting
Saturday, May 23, 2009**

**Delegates Report – 2009 OSBCC Conference
April 14th – 18th, 2009
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario**

997 Delegates in attendance were Tracey Benson, Debbie Gillan, Wendy Gliddon, Kirk McFarlane and Fiona Williams.

The Ontario School Board Coordinating Committee (OSBCC) met in Sault Saint Marie Ontario for their annual conference. There were more than 200 delegates from across the province in attendance. These delegates met to participate in workshops or seminars.

This year the OSBCC conference was dedicated primarily to managing the PDT and moving forward. Workshop discussions focused on delegate perspectives pertaining to what worked well, what didn't work well and input on how the process could be improved if we were to embark on this again. A mandatory "Managing the PDT" workshop provided the delegates with the tools to hold the employer accountable over the next three years. Memory sticks which provided a wealth of resources and information regarding the PDT process, including a report entitled "Planning Impossibilities", regarding declining enrolment, were provided to all delegates

On the first evening of the conference, Terri Preston, OSBCC Chairperson, opened the conference and welcomed all delegates. Additional greetings were offered by Joanne Webb, Diversity Vice-president for Aboriginal Workers and Cindy Page and Richard Plourde, Areas 2 and 15 Representatives.

Gary Premo, President, Sault Ste. Marie and District Labour Council and Anthony Bumbacco, Vice-President, Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma District CUPE Council offered warm greetings to their diverse city.

Sid Ryan (President of CUPE Ontario) welcomed delegates and spoke briefly on issues relating to CUPE Ontario.

Day two opened with Brian Blakeley and Paul O'Donnell offering a recap of events and review of settlements and trends followed by a review of our financial status by Claude Genereux, CUPE National Treasurer.

Later in the morning, delegates broke into groups and attended workshops by Area to review the PDT and to develop plans for the future. Delegates were almost unanimous in their agreement the PDT had resulted in improvements during their most recent negotiations with their employers. Some of the common areas of improvement included wage increases over four years, increase to 7 hours for EA's, no strike action, job security and improvements to benefit plans.

Guest speaker Maude Barlow presented her successful "Unbottle It" campaign to delegates on the evening of the 15th.

The third day involved occupational group mini conferences where delegates spent the day discussing PDT issues relating specifically to their occupational groups. 997 delegates attended the following conferences:

- Educational Assistants
- Maintenance Trades
- Office/Clerical/Library

The fourth day included a mandatory workshop on the PDT and elective workshops. 997 members attended the following elective workshops:

- Helping Your Members (EAP)
- Health and Safety – Committee Structures Workshop
- WSIB Issues – Know Your Rights
- Labour/Management

The OSBCC Business Session took place on the final morning of the conference. Fred Hahn (Secretary Treasure CUPE Ontario) spoke about changes to the dues structure for all members. CUPE Ontario is recommending adoption of a percentage dues rate of .04% instead of the current flat rate of \$1.36. Delegates will have the opportunity to vote on this issue at the Ontario Division Meeting in May.

Report Submitted by Debbie Gillan and Fiona Williams

“Be it resolved the OSBCC Delegates Report be received”